

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Volume IV

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"To secure the support of the people and the government in the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, wildlife, wilderness, and outdoor recreational resource values in the North Cascades"

"A JOB ONE-FOURTH DONE"

We received the following note accompanied by a petition of 20 signatures in support of the study of the North Cascades of Washington by the National Park Service:

"I realize this issue has been successfully resolved but my 16 year old son worked so hard to collect the signatures, I am sending them on."

The petition is gratefully acknowledged and the young man who collected the signatures hereby publicly thanked for his worthwhile and much-needed efforts.

However, the status of the issue needs further clarification for the benefit of the boy's mother and, we suspect, many others, including even our own members. The issue has been partially, possibly only one quarter, resolved - it is now "A JOB ONE-FOURTH DONE". A Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, albeit poor and grossly defective in many respects, has been established. The three-fourths yet to be accomplished consists of (1) the establishment of a North Cascades Wilderness Area, (2) the study of the North Cascades by the Department of the Interior - National Park Service, and (3) the establishment of a North Cascades National Park with the established Wilderness Areas as a wilderness core of the park. After all this, there will be the never-ending watchfulness to protect the park just as has been found necessary for Olympic National Park.

Our efforts must be directed to (1) seeing that the Forest Service gives adequate recreational and scenic protection in its multiple use plan to those areas which will ultimately be included in a national park, insuring that Congress in 1961 (2) passes a bill to permit the study of the North Cascades by the Park Service and (3) passes the Wilderness Bill which did not pass in 1960. Refer to page 4 of your September N3C - NEWS for further details.

The Wilderness Area issue has only been partially resolved and the national park issue not resolved at all. We have only started and we need every available interested person and helping hand we can find. Thanks for what you have done already and are about to do now for the North Cascades and please keep it up!

P. D. Goldsworthy, President

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WANTED: REFUGES FOR NON-HUNTERS
John F. Warth - Seattle

In writing this appeal for refuges for non-hunters, I am fully aware that some of our most ardent Northern Cascades boosters are hunters. It is hoped these will agree with my general thesis, or at least be sympathetic. The point I should like to make is that there is virtually no place in Washington outside of our national and state parks where a hiker can go during hunting season without getting shot at. Oh, I am aware that the chances of being hit by a stray bullet are less than the chances of being hit by an "unguided missile" on the super-highway. But try to convince your wife of that!

Even during the summer season one must be subjected to pretty much the same hazards. A fisherman confided that his pistol carried for "self protection" was also useful for filling the pot (including no doubt, even mother grouse with young). Target shooting in camp grounds is a favorite pastime with some. When I was exploring some beaver workings across a lake from a party of men campers, I suddenly heard the bullets ricochetting on the water—in my direction! Another time a boy pointed a .22 pistol into my ribs. When I nearly croaked the father explained that the safety was on. Firearms education will help, but we will probably never be entirely free from such thoughtless behavior. Hunting regulations can never be strictly enforced in the back country, especially in regard to birds and small mammals. The only solution would appear to be to provide more areas where guns are prohibited at all times.

Although on an October week-end a hiker may seem like a member of an insignificant minority, Forest Service statistics prove otherwise. Over the entire Mount Baker National Forest, hunting composed only 1% of the recreational visits during the year. One might expect the Department of Game to give some consideration to the 99% who are coming there merely to enjoy the country with its native wildlife. But what have they done? They have all but eliminated the system of state game refuges which in the Cascades alone once totaled 700,000 acres, or approximately 8% of the entire range. Today these refuges have been largely replaced with state-owned game ranges and "game management units." The former provide winter range for elk and deer; the latter control the kill of elk and goats with a specified number of hunting permits. There is no denying the success of modern game management practices. Whatever species is currently in greatest demand can usually be produced in abundance. But what about those who prefer a balanced biota, who would thrill more to seeing a cougar or even a ptarmigan than a deer?

A few years ago the Game Department opened the season on goats. Protests of goat-lovers were of no avail. They were unable to produce conclusive evidence that the herds were being reduced. Could one expect a department financed by hunting and fishing licenses to be concerned that goats were becoming harder to observe by summer visitors? (One goat scrambled down a sheer 500-ft. cliff in seconds, thinking we were hunters.) Or that goats really aren't much of a game animal? (One hunter confided that the goats were so easy to get that he felt like he was shooting a cow.) Or that the hiker unaccustomed to the sight of blood, may shudder at seeing a goat being packed out, his white coat streaked with crimson.

Last year a special early deer season was opened in the high Cascades, roughly in the area conservationists are working hardest to protect. Whether this was coincidental is not known. Nevertheless it will shorten by about a month the "open season" for non-hunters.

Just what effect hunting over the years has had on the native wildlife of the Cascades is difficult to appraise. Studies by unbiased biologists need to be made. I can say that I personally observed far more animals in the Salmon La Sac country right after the war when hunting was negligible than in recent years. And that bear there have been nearly exterminated because they were found guilty of raiding sheep herds. Certain it is that the Cascade Range in general, or at least the more rugged north central portion with its heavy snowfall, has never produced the wildlife populations of drier ranges such as the Rockies. Nevertheless we do know that several species are now extinct or virtually so. These include the grizzly, the wolf, the bighorn sheep, the wolverine and the fisher. Not everyone would like to see the unpredictable grizzly reintroduced. But some believe the wolf played a valuable role in maintaining big game species. One observer believes that the reason the high ridges north of Lake Chelan are becoming barren of game is due to increases in coyotes. And that this increase appears to result from the extirpation of the coyote's chief competitor, the wolf, a species he believes is actually less destructive.

A commendable effort has recently been made by the Department of Game to reintroduce to the Cascades the bighorn sheep. It is hoped this effort will be successful.

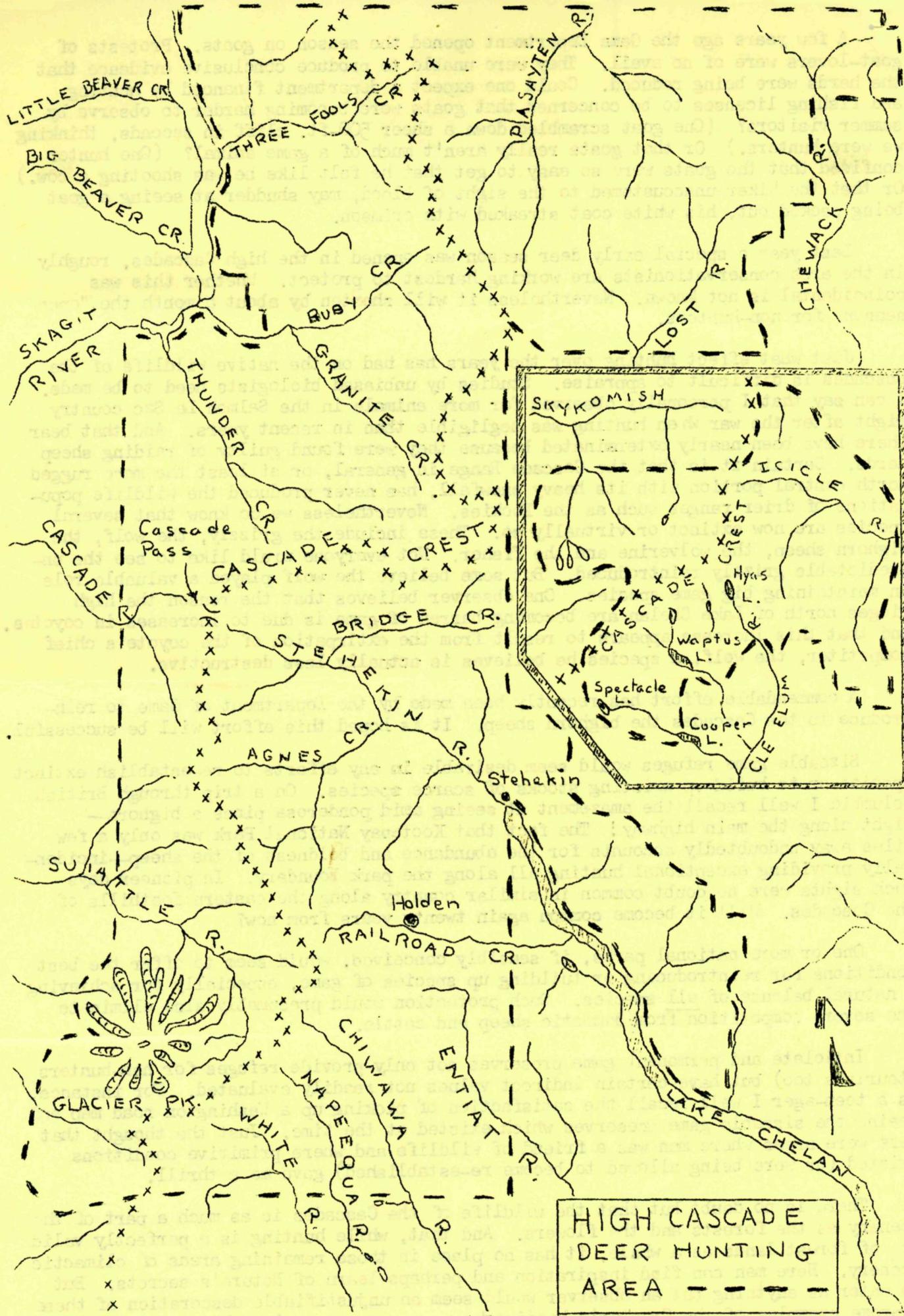
Sizeable game refuges would seem desirable in any efforts to re-establish extinct species or to build up existing stocks of scarce species. On a trip through British Columbia I well recall the amazement at seeing amid ponderosa pines a bighorn—right along the main highway! The fact that Kootenay National Park was only a few miles away undoubtedly accounts for the abundance and boldness of the sheep—incidentally providing exceptional hunting all along the park boundary. In pioneer days such sights were no doubt common in similar country along the eastern foothills of the Cascades. Will it become common again twenty years from now?

One or more national parks, if sensibly conceived, would seem to offer the best conditions for reintroducing or building up species of game, especially for achieving a natural balance of all species. Such protection would presumably also eliminate the severe competition from domestic sheep and cattle.

Inviolate and permanent game preserves not only provide refuges for non-hunters (tourists too) but have certain indirect values not readily evaluated. For instance, as a teen-ager I well recall the satisfaction of picking up a Washington road map and seeing the sizeable game preserves which existed at the time. Just the thought that here were areas where man was a friend of wildlife and where primitive conditions existed (or were being allowed to become re-established) gave me a thrill.

There is no doubt but that the wildlife of the Cascades is as much a part of the scenery as the forests and the flowers. And that, while hunting is a perfectly valid use of forest lands as a whole, it has no place in those remaining areas of climactic scenery. Here man can find inspiration and perhaps learn of Nature's secrets. But to enter as anything but an observer would seem an unjustifiable desecration of these supreme examples of the Creator's handiwork.

—John F. Warth, Seattle



WILDLIFE HARVESTING

EXCERPTS FROM Washington State Game Department Bulletin, Oct. 1960

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

The first record of restrictions on the hunting of mountain goats dates back to 1897. At that time the hunter was limited to taking two goats through the 3-month season. Then in 1913 the limit was reduced to one goat per hunter. The hunting area was restricted in 1917 and finally closed completely in 1925. Hunting remained closed until 1948. In 1960, the number of permits was again increased and hunting areas revamped to 18 different units. This allows better hunter distribution and a higher kill without damaging the breeding herd. On an average, about one in five persons applying receives a goat hunting permit, and from 3.5 to 4 persons out of ten who do hunt are successful.

Biologists feel that kids usually comprise 25-30 percent of a goat herd and that 20 percent of our goat population could be taken annually if hunting pressure could be satisfactorily distributed to avoid excessive pressure in any one area. Present harvests fall well short of this, but because we don't know everything about goats, management must proceed slowly in the direction of an ideal harvest.

There are approximately 6,000 mountain goats in the State of Washington. With goats, the winter season appears to be the most important factor in limiting a herd and a severe winter may seriously affect the potential annual increase. Biologists are continuing study on the mountain goat in an effort to find more satisfactory solutions to the various problems.

Among other problems, the biologists are faced with the proposed North Cascades National Park which would eliminate much of the goat hunting area in north central Washington. The Game Department would like to continue offering this rugged type of hunting and to maintain goats as tourist attractions. Basically the Department is trying to do the same with goats as with other game animals - allow public utilization of an available resource without permanently damaging the resource. It is recognized that to many people the mountain goat has only an esthetic value. For this reason hunting is not permitted in easily accessible areas and the number of hunters in each unit is carefully controlled. Seasons are in no way set to reduce the number of goats but only to harvest annual surpluses. This allows better herd management without destroying goats observable from highways in various parts of the state.

YEAR	PERMITS ISSUED	HARVEST	YEAR	PERMITS ISSUED	HARVEST
1948	150	55	1955	400	103
1949	400	82	1956	-14	77
1950	400	99	1957	600	205
1951	400	56	1958	600	199
1952	400	71	1959	600	191
1953	400	45	1960	800	?
1954	400	54			

DEER

For those with boats, or able to pack in, success is always high in the upper Lake Chelan areas, especially on the north side of the lake. Other good Chelan county areas include the First creek-Twenty-five Mile creek area, Tyee ridge, Entiat ridge, and the upper Entiat and upper Chiwawa river areas.

BEAR

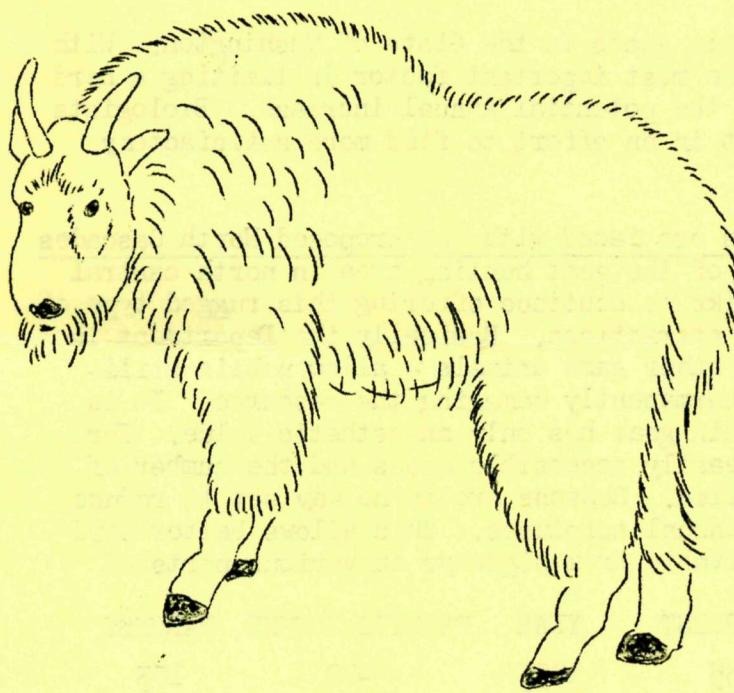
Some of the most enjoyable bear hunting can be found in the high Cascades where one can stalk the prey over expansive alpine meadows.

MOUNTAIN GOAT HAS RUGGED ATTRACTIVENESS

From Nature Sketches by Harry W. Higman, Seattle Times, July 31, 1960

The mountain goat is not really a goat, but belongs in a hollow-horned group with the mountain sheep, buffalo and musk ox. Rock, cliffs, sheer walls, steep slopes, hard winters and heavy storms, with terrific winds, characterize their habitats. Their hoofs are equipped with soft pads and sharp edges, to assure good footing in tricky places. They also are clothed to withstand the storms at and above the snow line, where they spend much time. Weather seldom bothers them. They are about three feet high and their weight is variable, ranging from 150 pounds up to perhaps 250 pounds or more.

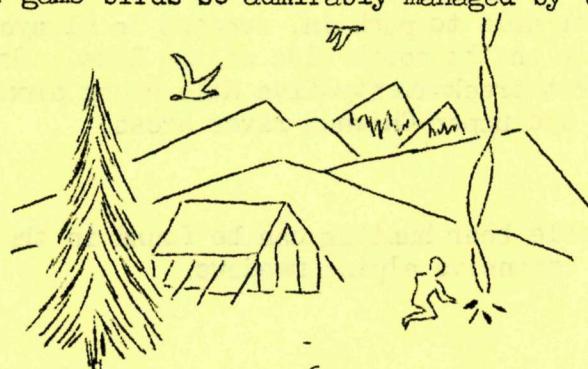
The goat is completely free of feeding habits harmful to man and man's stock. It competes in no way, never invades or tramples his fields. They occupy only the high waste places, where men do not live regularly nor visit often. On the other hand it must be conceded that this goat is of no practical value to man. The meat of old goats is stringy and unpalatable—only the young could be called suitable for the white man's taste.



The animals once were hunted freely and almost were wiped out. Then a closed season was imposed. Gradually, they began to come back. The goat herds in the state increased until small bands frequently were seen by those who visited the high country.

The Goats are one of the most significant features of mountain landscapes; they are free, staunch, and indomitable high-altitude dwellers. Why should the theories of harvesting deer and game birds to keep numbers down and prevent damage to farmer's crops be applied to the little bands of mountain goats? They do no harm, they inhabit areas unused by man, they can be numbered in the very few thousands and the extension of hunting and a few bad winters could wipe them out entirely.

Leave the goats there and thousands will see them. Place your bullet properly and you will get merely a bunch of meat not of top quality and a head of no special beauty. Let them alone and they will continue to thrive in an atmosphere and under conditions suitable for almost no other mammals, except a few rarely seen high-country furbearers. It would seem that thinking hunters would be content to take their share of game from the nearly 100,000 deer annually ready for harvest or the countless thousands of game birds so admirably managed by the State Game Department.



HUNTING ON "PARK-LIKE LANDS"
Administered by the Department of The Interior

The establishment of a North Cascades National Park must resolve the conflict between hunting interests and National Park principles. The following excerpts from a letter written to us by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Roger Ernst, explain the extent to which "park-like lands" administered by the Department of the Interior are utilized for hunting.

Areas within the NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM are intended as sanctuaries for wildlife and, as a general rule, hunting of any wild bird or animal is prohibited in such areas. The CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE RECREATIONAL AREA in North Carolina constitutes an exception to this rule. Hunting is permitted upon certain waters and not more than 2,000 acres of land within this national recreational area.

Hunting is permitted in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local laws--except in developed or concentrated public use areas--in other national recreation areas administered by the National Park Service of this Department. They are the LAKE MEAD, COULEE DAM, SHADOW MOUNTAIN and GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION areas. In these areas, grazing is permitted and at LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, the removal of minerals is allowed under such controls as are necessary for the protection of scenic and scientific features.

Proposals are under consideration which contemplate preservation of certain outstanding examples of our Nation's shoreline areas as units of the National Park System. Several of these, such as the CAPE COD and OREGON LINES NATIONAL SEASHORE proposals, are the subject of congressional legislative measures which, if enacted in their present form, would recognize hunting as a compatible use, if appropriately regulated.

Lands withdrawn by this Department for reclamation purposes and administered by the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION are open to hunting according to State or Federal laws and regulations, except in areas where access must be restricted for security reasons or public safety. Moreover, as a general rule, reclamation withdrawn lands are available also for grazing, mining and forestry operations.

Lands administered by the BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT of this Department, likewise, are open to both hunting and commercial harvesting of natural resources. Where lands under the administration of this Bureau are withdrawn for classification or in aid of legislation at the request of another agency of the Federal Government, limitations are frequently imposed on the commercial harvesting of such resources--such as prohibitions against the exploration for, or taking of non-metalliferous minerals.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES are administered principally for the conservation of wildlife. Public use and enjoyment of these areas, including portions of them for hunting, is encouraged or permitted whenever these privileges are compatible with the primary objective of the refuge. Good land use practices are adhered to in the management of such lands, which means that farming, grazing and timber harvesting operations are conducted where these practices can be utilized as a management tool for the benefit of wildlife. Mineral exploration and mining are prohibited in wildlife refuges, except on lands which were reserved or acquired for refuge purposes subject to valid existing rights to conduct such activities.

Insofar as INDIAN LANDS are concerned, hunting and fishing privileges are reserved in the tribes for which the lands are being held in trust and the regulation of these activities is left to them. Where it is economically beneficial to the Indians and otherwise appropriate, grazing, mining and logging are permitted on such lands. Arrangements for the harvesting of these resources on Indian lands are subject to the approval of this Department.

PUBLIC USE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES - 1951 to 1959

There has been liberalization, through congressional legislation, in opening refuges to public hunting. In 1951, hunting was permitted on parts of 41 areas, while in 1959, some type of hunting was permitted on 76 refuges.

YEAR	HUNTING USE	YEAR	HUNTING USE
1951	222,470	1956	435,046
1952	260,340	1957	388,995
1953	347,988	1958	352,155
1954	361,366	1959	481,504
1955	406,219		

The nearly 10 million visitors on the National Wildlife Refuges in 1959 represent a 9 percent increase over the visitor-days of public use in 1958. The 9,936,000 visitor-days were divided as follows:

Hunting	5 percent	481,500
Fishing	32 percent	3,185,350
Miscellaneous	63 percent	6,269,300

Wildlife observations, picnicking, and swimming were the most popular. Recreation is permitted on designated portions of 138 of the 275 refuges where such coordinated use can be accomplished without defeating the primary objective for which the refuge was established.

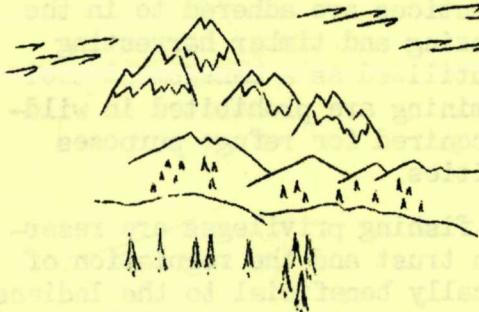
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A PLACE TO LEAVE NO MARK:

Among a normal man's higher ideals is the often expressed hope that he will leave the world a better place for having passed this way. The wilderness Advocate is an odd ball, his chief hope is to pass and leave no mark by which those who follow will know he has gone before.

There is an increasing clamor by these people that a small part of the nation's remaining true wilderness be given guaranteed protection against loggers, road builders, and others who would "harvest" the wilderness or scar its face. This clamor grows as more and more people realize how rapidly our true wilderness areas are shrinking - how little land is left in which a man can travel and find no sign that man has gone this way before.

We appreciate their happiness over the formation of the Glacier Peak wilderness area, we can sympathize with these people and their cause for these days they have no Teddy Roosevelt in a high position to lend a helping hand.



from; Portland Reporter, Sept. 20, 1960
Published by Portland Newspaper Workers Union

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We Need More Forest Lands for Grazing?

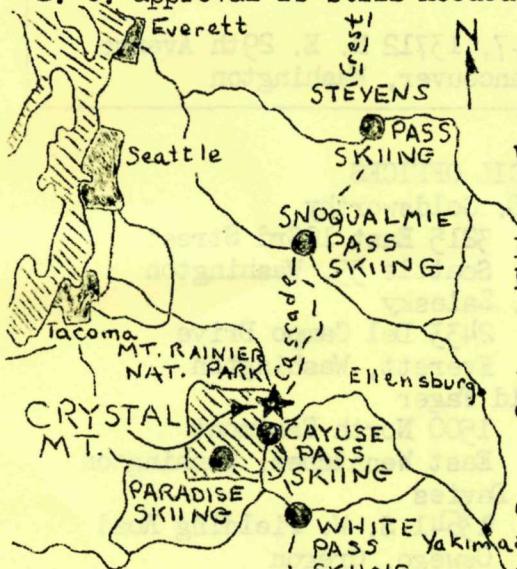
Colorado State University scientists say pine needles may be the cause of some puzzling abortions in beef cattle pastured on mountain ranges. Affected animals are most likely to abort during the last three months of pregnancy.

In some instances, range cattle of all ages ate the needles greedily, even where getting an adequate ration.

Successful Farming, May, 1960

FEDERAL AID NEAR FOR CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN WINTER SPORTS AREA

The Crystal Mountain ski area, 76 miles from Seattle, 64 miles from Tacoma, and just east of Mt. Rainier National Park appeared closer to realization when regional federal officials approved construction of an access road. Washington D. C. approval is still needed but is expected soon.



Next step would be allocation of part of the state's United States Forest Service highway funds to construct 6.32 miles of road at a cost of \$1,000,000 which would then be maintained by Pierce County.

Regional officials of the Federal Bureau of Public Roads and the Forest Service endorsed the road which has been strongly backed by Governor Rosellini.

A lodge is planned at 4,350 feet and tows would take skiers on to Crystal Mt. Ridge at 6800 feet elevation.

The realization of this Cascades winter sports development will culminate the long sought after alternate ski location needed to remove, we hope forever, the pressures to develop comparable facilities within Mt. Rainier National Park. Such facilities are inconsistent with the national park principles of dedicating national park areas as museums, not recreational playgrounds and resorts.

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HOLDEN GIVEN TO LUTHERAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

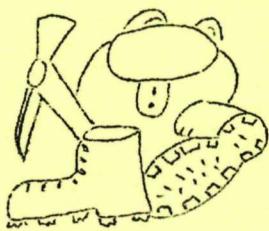
The abandoned mining town of Holden, in beautiful alpine country above Lake Chelan, was given to the Seattle Lutheran Bible Institute, 13016 Greenwood Ave., Seattle, by the Howe Sound Mining Co.

The old town is on 34 acres of leased Forest Service land on Railroad Creek about 12 miles west of Lucerne. Lucerne is about 35 miles up the west shore of the lake from Chelan.

The buildings and facilities at the former copper-mining town had been under negotiation for purchase as a resort in 1959 for about \$100,000. The replacement value is estimated at \$1,750,000.

There are 14 residences of modified Swiss-chalet design, five two-story dormitories with 30 double rooms each, a building with 12 two-room apartments and a recreational building. In addition there are a hospital and a dining hall seating 200 persons.

The institute said it plans to develop the village for use by Lutheran youths from throughout the country and to make it available for other Protestant youths.



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Form 3547 requested.